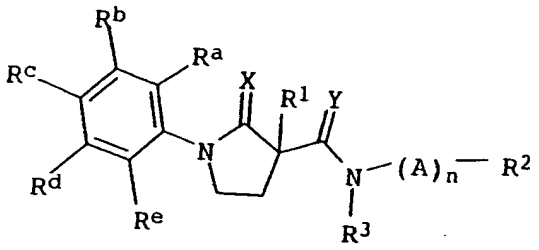
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound which is a 1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide of the formula I



(I)

where the variables R^1, R^2, R^3, X, Y, A, n, R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are as defined below:

R^1 is hydrogen, OH, Cl, Br, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, $C(0)R^4$ or $OC(0)R^4$;

R^2 and R^3 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_{10}-cycloalkyl, C_7-C_{10}-polycycloalkyl, C_3-C_8-alkenyl, C_3-C_{10}-alkynyl, C_5-C_{10}-cycloalkenyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, phenyl or 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 9 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN, NO_2, COOH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7, $C(0)NR^8S02R^{13}$, $C(0)NR^8R^9$ and 3- to 7- membered heterocyclyl, wherein each heterocyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the

group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, a group NR^{10} and a group SO_2, and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; and/or may contain a ring-fused phenyl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted; or

R^2 and R^3, together with the group N-(A)n to which they are attached, form a saturated 3- to 7-membered heterocycle which, in addition to the nitrogen atom, may contain 1, 2 or a further 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members;

R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e independently of one another are hydrogen, OH, CN, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_2-C_6-haloalkenyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, $C(0)R^4$, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7, $C(0)NR^8R^9$, $S(0)_2NR^8R^9$, $S(0)R^{11}$, $S(0)_2R^{11}$ or C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkyl; or two adjacent radicals R^a to R^e, together with the atoms to which they are attached, form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which may contain one or two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} as ring-forming atom and/or may carry one, two, three or four radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen and C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X, Y independently of one another are oxygen or sulfur;

n is 0 or 1;

A is 0, $S(0)_k$ or NR^{12}, where k is 0, 1 or 2;

R^4,R^8, R^9 independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^5, R^{11} are C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^6, R^7 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, $C(0)R^4$, $COOR^5$ or $S(0)_2R^{11}$;

R^{10}, R^{12} independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl or C_3-C_6-alkynyl; and

R^{13} is phenyl which is unsubstituted or carries 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, cyano, OH, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(0)NR^8R^9$;

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 in which R^2 and R^3 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_{10}-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8-alkenyl, C_3-C_8-alkynyl, C_5-C_{10}-cycloalkenyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, phenyl or 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 8 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN, NO_2, COOH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7, $C(0)NR^8R^9$, wherein each heterocyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; or

R^2 and R^3, together with the group N-(A)n to which they are attached, form a saturated 3- to 7-membered heterocycle which, in addition to the nitrogen atom, may contain 1, 2 or a further 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring

members.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is hydrogen.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^3 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_5-C_6-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(0)NR^8R^9$.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X and Y represent oxygen.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein n = 0.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radicals R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, CN, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OCH_3, CF_3, CHF_2, OCF_3 and $OCHF_2$.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein not more than 3 of the radicals R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are different from hydrogen.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein 2 or 3 of the radicals R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are different from hydrogen.

11. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein the radicals R^a and R^e represent hydrogen.

12. (Previously Presented) A composition, comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least compound as claimed in claim 1, and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier, and, if desired, at least one surfactant.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1 to act on plants, their habitat or on seed.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, comprising applying to plants, their habitat or to their seed a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said compound is applied at an application rate of from 0.001 to 3.0 kg/ha.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the application rate of said compound is 0.01 to 1.0 kg/ha.

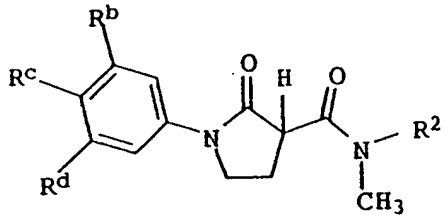
17. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein n is 1 and A, is oxygen, a group N-R^{12}, where R^{12} = hydrogen or alkyl, or a group SO_2.

18. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^a, R^b, R^c, R_d, R^e are independently hydrogen, halogen, CN, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy.

19. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen, OH, C1, Br, C_1-C_6-alkyl or $OC(O)R^4$.

20. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^2 is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8-alkenyl, C_3-C_8-alkynyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_5-C_8-cycloalkenyl or C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4 -alkyl, where C^1-C_{10}-alkyl and C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry one or two radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7, $C(0)NR^8R^9$, phenyl which may be unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, OH, CN, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstited or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, $NR^6R^7$and $C(0)NR^8R^9$.

21. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (Ia)



(Ia)

wherein

R^b, R^c, R^d independently of one another are hydrogen, OH, CN, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_2-C_6-haloalkenyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4 -haloalkylthio, $C(0)R^4$, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7, $C(0)NR^8R^9$, $S(0)_2NR^8R^9$, $S(0)R^{11}$, $S(0)_2R^{11}$ or C_1-C_4-alkoxy- C_1-C_6-alkyl; and

R^2 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_{10}-cycloalkyl, C_7-C_{10}-polycycloalkyl, C_3-C_8-alkenyl, C_3-C_{10}-alkynyl, C_5-C_{10}-cycloalkenyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, phenyl or 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 9 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or contain 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN NO_2, COOH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7, $C(O)NR^8SO_2R^{13}$, $C(O)NR^8R^9$ and 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, wherein each hetercyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, a group NR^{10} and a group SO_2, and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; and/or may contain a ring-fused phenyl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted.

22. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_5-C_6-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(0)NR^8R^9$;

wherein R^3 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; and

wherein X and Y represent oxygen.

23. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_5-C_6-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(0)NR^8R^9$;

wherein R^3 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

wherein X and Y represent oxygen; and

wherein n is 0.

24. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein R^1 is hydrogen;

wherein R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_5-C_6-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(0)NR^8R^9$;

wherein R^3 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; and

wherein X and Y represent oxygen.

25. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein R^1 is hydrogen;

wherein R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_5-C_6-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(0)NR^8R^9$;

wherein R^3 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

wherein X and Y represent oxygen; and

wherein n is 0.